

## CLAIMS

1. An image adjustment method of transferring a plurality of color component images by a transfer unit, detecting a superimposed state of the respective transferred color component images with a sensor, and adjusting an image transfer position, based on detected results, to correctly superimpose the respective color component images, comprising the steps of:
  - accepting information giving an instruction to detect a superimposed state of the respective color component images;
  - starting detection of a superimposed state of the respective color component images by controlling an operation of the sensor, upon acceptance of the information; and
  - stopping operations other than control of the operation of the sensor and accepting of detection results of the sensor, when detecting the superimposed state.
2. An image forming apparatus for forming an image by superimposing a plurality of color component images by separately transferring each color component, comprising:
  - a housing capable of being opened and closed;
  - an image sensor for detecting a superimposed state of the respective transferred color component images;
  - an open/close sensor for detecting opening and closing of the housing; and

a controller capable of performing operations of:  
controlling an operation of the image sensor;  
accepting information giving an instruction to detect a  
superimposed state of the respective color component images; and  
5 stopping operations other than control of the operation of  
the image sensor, accepting of detection results of the image sensor  
and accepting of detection results of the open/close sensor, when the  
accepting means accepts the information.

10 3. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,  
wherein the image sensor detects a superimposed state of the  
respective color component images on a predetermined cycle.

15 4. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 3,  
further comprising a fixing section for fixing the respective  
transferred color component images onto a recording carrier,  
wherein the controller is capable of performing further  
operations of:

20 supplying power to the fixing section; and  
stopping the supply of power to the fixing section when  
transferring the respective color component images and detecting a  
superimposed state of the respective color component images.

25 5. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 3,  
further comprising:

a fixing section for fixing the respective transferred color component images onto a recording carrier; and

a cooling section provided to lower temperature around the fixing section,

5       wherein the controller is capable of performing further operations of:

          supplying power to the cooling section; and

          stopping the supply of power to the cooling section when transferring the respective color component images and detecting a

10      superimposed state of the respective color component images.

6. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the controller stops the supply of power to the cooling section after stopping the supply of power to the fixing section,

15      when transferring the respective color component images and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component images.

7. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,

20      further comprising: a fixing section for fixing the respective transferred color component images onto a recording carrier,

          wherein the controller is capable of performing further operations of:

          supplying power to the fixing section; and

25      stopping the supply of power to the fixing section when

transferring the respective color component images and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component images.

8. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2,
  - 5 further comprising:
    - a fixing section for fixing the respective transferred color component images onto a recording carrier; and
    - a cooling section provided to lower temperature around the fixing section,
  - 10 wherein the controller is capable of performing further operations of:
    - supplying power to the cooling section; and
    - stopping the supply of power to the cooling section when transferring the respective color component images and detecting a
  - 15 superimposed state of the respective color component images.

9. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8,
  - wherein the controller stops the supply of power to the cooling section after stopping the supply of power to the fixing
  - 20 section, when transferring the respective color component images and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component images.

10. An image forming apparatus for forming an image by
  - 25 superimposing a plurality of color component images by separately

transferring each color component, comprising:

- a housing capable of being opened and closed;
- accepting means for accepting information giving an instruction to detect a superimposed state of the respective color component images;
- 5 image detecting means for detecting a superimposed state of the respective transferred color component images;
- control means for controlling an operation of the image detecting means; and
- 10 open/close detecting means for detecting opening and closing of the housing,
- wherein operations other than control of the operation of the image detecting means by the control means, accepting of detection results of the image detecting means and accepting of 15 detection results of the open/close detecting means are stopped when the accepting means accepts the information.

11. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the image detecting means detects a superimposed state of 20 the respective color component images on a predetermined cycle.

12. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising:

- fixing means for fixing the respective transferred color component images onto a recording carrier; and

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means for supplying power to the fixing means,  
wherein the supply of power to the fixing means is stopped  
when transferring the respective color component images and  
detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component  
5 images.

13. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11,  
further comprising:

fixing means for fixing the respective transferred color  
10 component images onto a recording carrier;  
cooling means provided to lower temperature around the  
fixing means; and  
means for supplying power to the cooling means,  
wherein the supply of power to the cooling means is  
15 stopped when transferring the respective color component images  
and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color  
component images.

14. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 13,  
20 further comprising means for performing control to stop the supply  
of power to the cooling section after stopping the supply of power to  
the fixing means, when transferring the respective color component  
images and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color  
component images.

15. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10,  
further comprising:

fixing means for fixing the respective transferred color  
component images onto a recording carrier; and  
5 means for supplying power to the fixing means,  
wherein the supply of power to the fixing means is stopped  
when transferring the respective color component images and  
detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component  
images.

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16. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 10,  
further comprising:

fixing means for fixing the respective transferred color  
component images onto a recording carrier;  
15 cooling means provided to lower temperature around the  
fixing means; and  
means for supplying power to the cooling means,  
wherein the supply of power to the cooling means is  
stopped when transferring the respective color component images  
20 and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color  
component images.

17. The image forming apparatus according to Claim 16,  
further comprising means for performing control to stop the supply  
25 of power to the cooling means after stopping the supply of power to

the fixing means, when transferring the respective color component images and detecting a superimposed state of the respective color component images.